



Growth and the Information Technology Department

By Dianna Catron, Director

The Information Technology (IT) Department has been very busy over the past months and the demands and challenges on our Department grow daily. In January, Todd Frazier guided the County towards its conversion to Exchange as our e-mail service. Todd continually monitors our growing network to ensure peak performance for our users.

Our web presence is becoming an important communication tool for the Citizens and Visitors to Culpeper County, and our intranet is off the ground and available for use by employees. Janice Estep designs, implements and maintains both the web and the intranet. Currently she is working with one of our vendors on web enabling software that allows the Building Inspectors to access, complete and update inspection results via cellular connection to the County’s main frame computer, the AS400. **The Virginia Review for September features an article on this procedure; please take time to read it.** By the way, did you know that you can view building permit results on the County site? Try it at www.culpepercounty.gov, click on **County Services, Building Department** and then **Check your Permit/Inspection status**. The key to accessing the result is your permit number and year.

Check the County Web Site at www.culpepercounty.gov for the status of your Building Inspection or Permit, or to submit a suggestion.

We have also created an e-mail account where anyone can submit a suggestion, question, concerns, etc. and the appropriate personnel will address it promptly. It is located on the home page of our website, just click on **submit here**. And while all this is going on, Aaron Grace stays slim and trim as he navigates between County buildings assisting users in more ways than can be mentioned in this article. We have also discovered he has a knack for animation in PowerPoint presentations.

The IT department has also held informal training on explaining: what is a virus, what to look for and how they can affect your PC. Training on basic PC operations, how to design a simple word document and using your e-mail have been conducted.

Software is being modified to meet demands of the Commonwealth for Personal Property Tax Relief Act (PPTRA) auditing, the Human Resources/Payroll modules have undergone a complete overhaul and a new landfill billing process has been created. These are just some of the many projects that are shaking up the use of technology in our County; stay tuned for more in the future.

Culpeper County’s Employee of the Month Program

Culpeper County has established a program to honor employees who have thrived in achievements of character, performance, and teamwork. With this program an employee is nominated by their own peers who feel they deserved to be recognized for their hard work and dedication. Once nominated, the eleven elected employee representatives of the Employee Action Committee decide who will receive this award.

The individual who is selected each month will be given a certificate and pin, a paid day off, and a reserved parking space for one month. Their name will be featured on the Wall of Fame located at the County Administration building, and they may also have a current photograph mounted, if they choose.

Month of April
Meg Crosby
Building Department

Month of May
Katrina Miller
Sheriff’s Office

Month of June
Toni Garnett
Finance Department

Culpeper County Department of Animal Services

by Jamie Bennett, Director of Animal Services

The growth experienced by Culpeper County in recent years affects each of us, not only as private citizens, but as to the quality and quantity of services which local government is able to provide to us.

As the Director of the Department of Animal Services for the past seven years, I have experienced the changes in our Department brought about by our County's growth. This growth has increased the number of animals passing through our shelter doors each year and the demand for animal control services. We are no longer a "dog pound" nor do we employ "dog catchers." We are now a respected professional agency that provides a very important service to our county citizens. But.... You know what? We need the help of each and every pet owner!

At this very moment, our animal shelter is housing over 100 cats and over 80 dogs. This figure does not include a number of puppies and kittens that are presently in foster care waiting to become old enough for adoption. On a daily basis we find ourselves asking owners to hold pets they can no longer keep until we have an open cage to house them. We are finding it harder each day to reach our goal of euthanizing only the sick, severely injured, and aggressive animals. It seems that for each pet we adopt out, four or five more take its place.

What is the solution to this problem? Build on to our new shelter to increase available caging? Absolutely not! It is going to take a conscious effort on the part of each citizen to help decrease the number of stray and unwanted animals in our county. If each and every citizen of Culpeper spayed/neutered their pet, we would see a dramatic decrease in the number of puppies and kittens born each year. Some people may argue that they find homes for their puppies or kittens. However, wouldn't it be better if those homes were available for a homeless shelter pet? Wouldn't it be better to save a life? Think of it this way, for each puppy or kitten born, the same number of shelter pets will be euthanized. Thought provoking isn't it?

How else can we decrease our pet population? That's easy. I'm sure each of us has noticed, at one time or another, a stray dog or cat hanging around our neighborhood? Well guess what, that dog or cat, male or female, could be responsible for producing several litters a year, most of which will end up at our shelter. Remember, there are not enough homes for the puppies and kittens. But, with a little effort

from each of us, we can stop the reproduction. All we need to do is call animal control. They will gladly assist in trapping these animals before they reproduce.

Not only has this growth affected the number of animals received at the shelter, it has increased the number of animal complaints we receive on a daily basis. Each day our animal control officers receive a large number of complaints regarding dogs running at large. Dogs running at large are responsible for the increasing number

Culpeper County has a "running at large" ordinance.

This means that we must be responsible pet owners and restrain our dogs to our property.

of adults and children bitten, for the number of pets killed or injured by dogs, for the number of dogs injured or killed in the roadways, for the number of livestock chased or killed by dogs, for the spread of disease, and for the number of unwanted litters. Culpeper County has a "running at large" ordinance. This means that we must be responsible pet owners and restrain our dogs to our property. Not only will we be protecting our pets from harm, we will decrease the need to add additional staff to our animal control department to handle these calls.

Growth has also brought about a heightened awareness of the welfare of pets. This awareness has increased the number of neglect and cruelty cases that are reported each year to our department. The terms "farm dog" and "barn cat" are no longer acceptable. Pet owners must adequately provide for their pets physically and emotionally. Pets are now considered true family members.

The cost of owning a pet has also increased greatly. Pet owners must ask themselves not only whether they have the time to properly care for the pet for the next ten to fifteen years, but also whether they can afford to properly care for the pet. Many pets are surrendered to our shelter only to become another euthanasia statistic because owners no longer have time for the pet, they are moving and cannot take the pet, or they cannot afford to take care of the pet properly. We must remember that pets are an enormous responsibility and require a true commitment. If you are considering acquiring a pet, please, give it serious thought. Here are a few questions you

should ask yourself prior to obtaining a new pet:

- ☐ Can I afford to spend \$500 to \$1,000 per year on a pet?
- ☐ Do I have time to spend quality time with a pet?
- ☐ Do I have time to spend properly house-breaking and training a pet?
- ☐ Am I able to provide adequate shelter and containment (no chains or tethers) for a pet?
- ☐ Will I be opposed to a pet living in my home?
- ☐ Do I or any of my family members have allergies to pets?
- ☐ Can I afford boarding care for a pet should I need to go out of town?
- ☐ Will I be living in a home in which I can have my pet for the next 10 to 15 years?
- ☐ Can I commit to care for the pet its entire life?

Reminder for all Culpeper County dog owners

It is required that all dogs over the age of four (4) months of age have a current Rabies inoculation and a County dog license. County dog licenses may be purchased at the County Treasurer's Office on West Cameron Street. Violations of these requirements are subject to a charge of a Class 4 Misdemeanor.

Please be aware that Animal Control is currently checking for the required Rabies vaccination and County dog licenses and anyone found in violation will be issued a summons to appear in court.

For more information, please contact the Culpeper County Department of Animal Services at 540-547-4477.

Local Conservation Agency: The Culpeper Soil & Water Conservation District

The Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD) is a political subdivision of Virginia. Geographically, it includes the counties of Culpeper, Greene, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock. Founded in 1939 by citizens concerned about soil and water conservation, the CSWCD is the largest of forty-six conservation districts within Virginia and serves an area covering 1,445 square miles with about 91,000 constituents.

The staff consists of a District Manager, a Conservation Specialist, an Administrative Secretary and an Information/Education Coordinator.

A 12-member Board of Directors governs the District. Each of the five counties within the District elects two members in the general election, one member is appointed at-large, and a Cooperative Extension Agent is appointed from one of the member counties. Directors are not paid, but are locally elected officials who help direct both the functioning of the district and the salaried district technicians who work in partnership with the state and federal conservation staff. Directors attend monthly board meetings, participate on District Committees and work groups, represent the citizens of their county in regard to conservation issues, and must be willing to stay abreast of local conservation issues. They are also required to participate in policy and program development, as well as provide financial direction for proper expenditure and management of funds within the District. The Board also appoints Associate Directors as needed. Associate Directors are non-voting members. The Board meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 9:30 AM and rotates meeting locations among the five counties.

All citizens of the District may have a voice in resource and conservation planning by attending monthly board meetings, communicating their concerns to directors or staff, and by participating in District programs. The CSWCD develops a wide range of programs to encourage community participation in conserving and protecting soil, water and related natural resources. Of highest priority is the reduction of negative impacts on water quality from non-point-source pollution such as nutrients (from animal waste and fertilizers) and sediment (from soil ero-

sion), which ultimately reach the Chesapeake Bay in streams and rivers. Non-point-source pollution occurs when stormwater runoff carries excess nutrients and soil into surface water. District programs are funded by local, state and federal agencies with technical support from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

The mission of the District is to promote the stewardship of soil and water and the conservation of our natural resources by educating and providing technical assistance to manage, protect, and enhance the land and water for the benefit and enjoyment of the citizens of Culpeper, Greene, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock Counties.

Implementation of the District's mission includes the following:

- **Administer the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMP) Cost-Share Program.** Funded with state and federal funds, this incentive program is designed to improve the quality of state streams, rivers, and other water bodies through the implementation of BMPs. BMPs are designed to prevent soil erosion and minimize the introduction of nutrients, sediments, and toxins into water bodies. Sign-up for the program is on a continuous basis, and eligible applicants, once approved, may receive up to 75 percent of BMP installation cost, up to \$50,000.
- **Administer the Virginia Agricultural BMP Tax Credit Program.** This program allows producers to take a 25% tax credit on their Virginia income taxes for their out-of-pocket expenses, when BMPs are installed as outlined in an approved conservation plan.
- **Provide technical assistance.** Technical assistance and information is provided outside of the cost-share program to all organizations, businesses, county governments, and individuals when requested. Information is available on soils,

aerial photography, topographic maps, ponds, water management and protection, wetlands, grazing management for conservation and profitability, stormwater control, and many related topics.

- **Host workshops, tours, field days, and provide educational programs and information to schools, the general public, legislators, and local governments.**
- **Review erosion and sediment control plans and make site inspections for member counties.**

Culpeper County, the founding county of the District, is home to the District Administrative office. Satellite offices are maintained in Orange and Madison counties.

As a political subdivision of the Commonwealth, the District receives operations funding for staff, administration, overhead etc., and program funding, from the Commonwealth. The latter is targeted specifically to implementation projects on the land, known commonly as Best Management Practices.

The District administers The Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program within District boundaries. Through participation in this program agricultural producers are assisted with the cost of implementing conservation practices that benefit water quality. It is a voluntary program with primarily a ten year commitment to maintain a practice.

The District has delivered approximately \$275,000 in cost-share and \$45,000 in tax credits to Culpeper County in the past three years, through the two state BMP programs above. In addition the District assists in the delivery of federal incentive programs targeted at helping the agricultural community reduce non-point-source pollution and improve water quality.

For more information on District programs or technical assistance contact the District at (540) 825-8591 or visit <http://culpeper.vaswcd.org/culpeper>.

As Times Change Health Department Assumes an Important New Role

by the staff of the Culpeper Health Department

At 640 Laurel Street in Culpeper there is an unassuming brick building that often goes unnoticed by those driving by. But inside that building the important work of preserving and protecting the public health is carried out each day by the employees of the Culpeper Health Department.

The Culpeper Health Department has continued to grow to better meet the changing health needs of the County. It is operated as a County-State partnership. It falls within the Rappahannock-Rapidan Health District, one of 35 health districts in Virginia. In addition to Culpeper, the Rappahannock-Rapidan Health District also covers Fauquier, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock counties.

Today, at its Laurel Street location, the Health Department provides a wide variety of clinical services, many at sliding scale fees. They offer clinics for family planning, maternity, well child exams, school physicals, immunizations (including those needed for overseas travel), sexually transmitted disease prevention and treatment, and nutrition services for pregnant women and young children.

Many in Culpeper are familiar with the environmental health functions performed by the Health Department. Environmental health specialists inspect restaurants and other places serving food for public consumption. Those reports are now available for the public to view on its website. They also permit private household wells and septic systems, and they track and investigate environmental conditions that could affect health; for example, animal diseases like rabies or West Nile virus.

The Health Department also tracks infectious diseases in the community and investigates every case of a reportable disease that occurs in the County to determine whether follow-up is needed to prevent its spread to others. They provide education and consultation about diseases of public health importance, for example, tuberculo-



Culpeper County Health Department

Open 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday

sis, smallpox and SARS.

Over the past two years, the Health Department has begun taking on an important new role, that of “first responder”, a job traditionally associated with police and fire departments. In the wake of letters contaminated with anthrax spores, the need for public health participation in emergency planning became clear. The Rappahannock - Rapidan Health District has hired an epidemiologist and an emergency planner. Epidemiologists are “disease detectives” that track how infections spread through the population.

“We want to be fully prepared to respond to any disease outbreak regardless of its source,” said Rappahannock-Rapidan Health District Director Lilian R. Peake, M.D., M.P.H. “The district received a federal grant that has helped us improve our disease tracking systems and acquire new information technology and communications equipment. But our readiness has been most enhanced by coordinating our efforts with local emergency managers, law enforcement agencies, fire departments and others. They have been great to work with.”

If there is ever a public health emergency, the Health District will also need help from the citizens in the County. The Health Department is working with its community partners to organize a volunteer Medical Reserve Corps. Volunteers of all types are welcome. People with clinical training, physicians, physician assistants, nurses of all skill levels, and pharmacists are especially needed. Training will be provided and time commitments are minimal.

For more information about the services of the Rappahannock-Rapidan Health District or to volunteer for the Medical Reserve Corps, please contact the Health Department at 829-7350 or visit our website at

<http://www.vdh.state.va.us/lhd/rappid/rapid3.asp>

Governor Warner Announces
\$37 Million Federal Grant Request for
Public Health Emergency Preparedness
— Funding targets preparation for
bioterrorism and natural public health
emergencies —

June 27, 2003
RICHMOND, VA

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES PROGRAM

by J. Andrew Lawson, Director

The Criminal Justice Services Program (CJS) has experienced the challenges of growth and changes the past few years, as with most County departments. It is anticipated that growth will continue, and the demand for local probation supervision will only increase. This article is intended to provide a brief overview of the program and provide statistical information for the last three fiscal years concerning growth.

CJS provides local probation supervision for both jailable misdemeanor and nonviolent felon offenders. Offenders referred to CJS are allowed to remain in the community under supervision. Rather than filling jails, they work, attend school, receive treatment, pay taxes, pay child support, pay restitution, and pay court costs and fines.

Local probation supervision is a far less expensive option than jail. It should be noted that not all offenders are appropriate for CJS placement, and certainly some offenders need to be in jail. The approximate cost to have an offender under supervision with CJS is \$3.75 per day, as compared to the cost of \$74 a day to incarcerate an offender at the Culpeper County Jail.

CJS is instrumental in ensuring that domestic violence offenders are held accountable and receive services. Most offenders are placed in either a batterer’s or anger management group. A capias of arrest is now issued for offenders that fail to present for the initial evaluation to the batterer’s group as ordered by the Court. Since fiscal year 2001, 242 offenders have been placed due to domestic violence charges.

CJS will continue to provide the highest quality service possible for the citizens of Culpeper County. CJS primarily operates under a grant provided by the Commonwealth of Virginia. Due to budget deficits and reductions, it is probable that CJS will be required to request County funding in the future to continue to operate at the current growth level.

The following chart highlights the increase in workloads as a decrease in budget has occurred from fiscal year 2001 to fiscal year 2003.

	<u>FY01</u>	<u>FY03*</u>	<u>% of Change</u>
<u>BUDGET</u>			
Appropriated Budget	\$234,265	\$214,406	-8.5%
<u>PLACEMENTS</u>			
Misdemeanant	322	386	+20%
Felon	4	24	+500%
<u>SERVICE PLACEMENTS</u>			
Community Service	209	246	+18%
Batterer’s Group	48	56	+17%
Anger Management	25	27	+8%
Substance Abuse Counseling	31	60	+94%
Substance Abuse Education	31	21	-32%
Mental Health/Family Counseling	17	29	+71%
Shoplifters Group	12	20	+67%
Urine Screens	2195	2895	+32%

*projections based on 3rd Quarter FY03 figures

For the last three years offenders placed with CJS have accomplished the following:

\$155,434 was collected in **court costs and fines**.

\$82,044 was facilitated in **victim restitution**.

Culpeper County benefited in 24,310 hours (\$125,200) of community service labor.

News from the Office of the Commonwealth Attorney

New Lineup At Commonwealth Attorney’s Office

With summer comes baseball. And with baseball comes the ever-changing starting lineup.

The same is true for the Commonwealth Attorney’s Office. Off the batting list is Glenda Greenaway who left her position as an assistant commonwealth attorney for that of magistrate in Culpeper. Greenaway prosecuted primarily in Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. New to the lineup is Dale Durrer. He hails from Madison County, and prior to his position with the County he worked as an attorney with former Delegate John J. “Butch” Davies III.

Assistant Commonwealth Attorney Tom Smith, who had been primarily responsible for prosecuting in General District Court will now prosecute primarily in Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. Durrer will take Smith’s position in General District Court.

“I think this new lineup will make for a better staff and for better prosecution,” Commonwealth Attorney Gary Close said of the changes. “We will miss Glenda’s contribution to the Office, and we wish her well.” Close said.

Close Appointed to Legislative Task Force

Commonwealth Attorney Gary Close has been appointed to a task force studying treatment options for inmates who suffer from mental illness or who abuse drugs.

“All too often we see those with mental illness being warehoused in jail, when they should be receiving treatment,” Close said. “I hope we can look at ways that prevent crimes committed by those suffering from mental illness.”

Chairing the task force is Senator Steve Martin. Other members include Senators Edd Houck and Janet Howell, Secretary of Health and Human Resources Jane Woods and Deputy Secretary of Public Safety, Barry Green.

The task force will meet throughout the year. Its first meeting was in July.



Gary Close
Commonwealth Attorney

Virginia Cooperative Extension

Linda G. Murphy, Unit Coordinator

Culpeper County experienced a 23% increase in population during the decade of the ‘90s. From all indications the growth is not slowing. I wish I could say that Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) staff has increased by that amount. The reality is we have not. In fact we have two fewer staff than in 2000.

How has the growth impacted VCE? During the past year, registrations for programs have exceeded the spaces available. We have received as many as 60% more registrations than space available in workshops for child care providers/early childhood educators. These workshops are designed to equip workers with the skills necessary to increase the quality of care of young children. They also are needed to meet licensing requirements. The monthly parenting program exceeds the registration limit every month. The spaces available in the 4-H summer workshops could accommodate only 77% of the registrations received. The requests for programs exceed the resources available. Camp is no different. The original number of slots for summer camp could handle only 66% of the sign ups. Fortunately for Culpeper youth, the partnering counties could not fill their allotted slots, creating more spaces for Culpeper youth.

How do we meet the challenge? There is never a dull moment in our office! Nor is there a slow period! Staff members are experts at multi-tasking and finding creative solutions to fill the requests for programs. One successful idea has been our partnering with other agencies and/or businesses that provide funding for temporary staff, space for programs or to research pilot programs, and/or program supplies.

The use of volunteers to extend our programs has been part of our delivery model since the beginning. 4-H leaders, workshop instructors, camp counselors, and Master Gardeners are among the regulars. The Smart Choices Nutrition Education Program relies on volunteers to assist with obtaining food supplies and setting up food pantry programs. Food stamp eligible families prepare nutritionally balanced meals they can replicate for their families as a result of their efforts.

We are utilizing electronics to make information available to the public at their convenience. Most publications may be obtained online at www.ext.vt.edu. Program information is available on line at www.ext.vt.edu/offices, select Culpeper. You may contact staff through this means as well. And finally, our committees are now communicating and doing some work by e-mail, allowing involvement by those with limited time for meetings.

I would like to think we are working smarter, not harder, to meet the increasing volume of requests for services for which we are noted. The reality is that each staff member is working both smarter and harder! Staff have reported an estimated 30% increase in contacts this past year. From all appearances this may be conservative estimate. If you would like to volunteer in one or more of our programs, please give us a call at 727-3435, ext. 0.

From Your Commissioner of the Revenue
by Terry L. Yowell



Terry Yowell

Residential growth in the County and Town of Culpeper over the past five years has accelerated. Unfortunately, commercial development has not kept pace. This results in an unbalanced tax base. This scenario of events has presented my staff and me with the unique challenge of providing consistent high quality services with little change in staffing. Fortunately we have outstanding staff in the Office of the Commissioner of the Revenue who consistently go above and beyond in their efforts to manage the increasing workload.

In order for you to appreciate how the rapid growth in our community has affected my Office, I will share with those of you who may not be familiar, the day-to-day activities of the Commissioner's Office.

On average, our office answers approximately 40 calls per day. Our goal is to answer every call personally by the second ring, but with the growth that has occurred in this area in the past two years we can and frequently do, have as many as 400 calls per day during peak times.

The Commissioner's office has a myriad of tasks and responsibilities that must be carried out each time a new parcel of land is created, a parcel of land changes hands, a new dwelling is constructed, or a property owner changes a dwelling.

Our office is responsible for the "Land Book". This book lists all real estate land parcels with corresponding tax map numbers, owner name and address, acreage (if known), legal description, zoning and the assessed value of land and improvements as of January 1st. Any time any detail of this information changes during the year, such as a sale, a survey or a new house, that change must be processed electronically and manually by staff in our office. As shown by **Chart 1, "Land Parcels Assessed"**, many larger parcels of land were subdivided during 2002, thus creating a number of smaller lots resulting in a significant increase in the total number of parcels assessed for January 1, 2003.

We update Town and County real estate records to reflect "instruments" recorded in the Clerks office. Instruments pertaining to real estate can include deed of ownership, deed of gift, wills, certificate of takes (VDOT) foreclosures, distress sales, survey plats, etc. As you can see by **Chart 2 "Real Estate Transfers"**, recording of instruments related to real estate rose nearly 50% in 2002.

Each time a building permit or zoning permit is issued, the Commissioner of the Revenue must physically go out into the field and pick up the data from the new construction for assessment purposes. This data is entered into the real estate Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal (CAMA) system and the real estate card (paper record) is updated to reflect the change in assessed value as a result of the new construction. Many of you are already aware of the construction which has been taking place in Culpeper. As shown in **Chart 3 "Assessment of New Construction"**, our office has experienced significant increase in the work required to collect the data necessary to update the Land Book and submit the new values to the Treasurers (Town and County) for billing. Examples of new construction may include new homes, garages, barns, in-ground pools and even renovations.

We are also responsible for keeping track of parcels enrolled in Land Use as well as calculating rollback taxes when the use of the land changes to non-qualifying. Culpeper County has an ordinance enacted to preserve and promote the farming industry. When enrolled in the land use program, land used for farming is valued at its "use value" as opposed to its "fair market" value. This results in farmland being taxed at a lower value per acre to reflect the use of such land. In the past two years an increasing amount of farmland has been subdivided. This results in research and the billing of the landowner for deferred taxes.

This process is referred to as rollback. This is a very time consuming process because it involves reviewing real estate records and land use applications for five previous years plus the current year in order to calculate the deferred value. Each year, on average, we work with approximately 500 applications as a result of a change. Each time there is a change in acreage, ownership, zoning or use, a new application must be generated to reflect the change and a new application fee must be collected.

We currently have over 2,300 parcels enrolled in land use. At the time of General Reassessment, all parcels must undergo revalidation of the use of the land in order to remain in the program. Any parcels not revalidated in land use by the owner, must be removed from the program and will be taxed at the fair market value. Parcels removed from the program are also subject to rollback taxes for five years.

Land Parcels Assessed

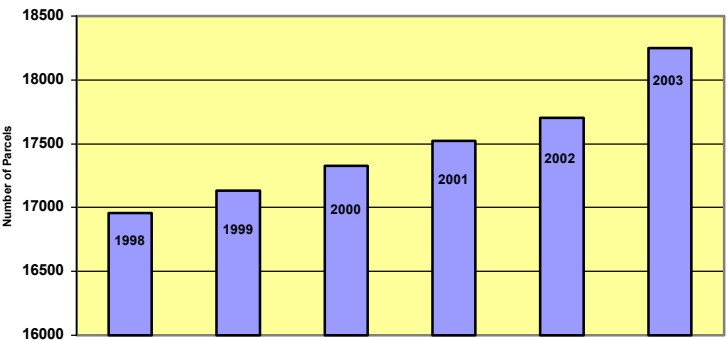


Chart 1

Real Estate Transfers

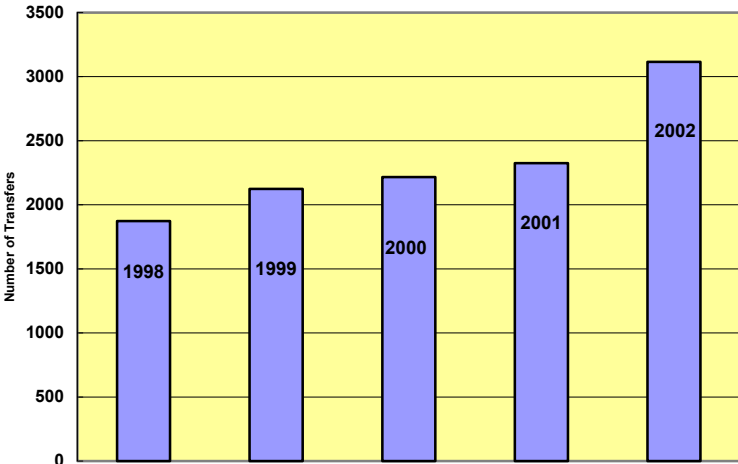


Chart 2

Assessment of New Construction

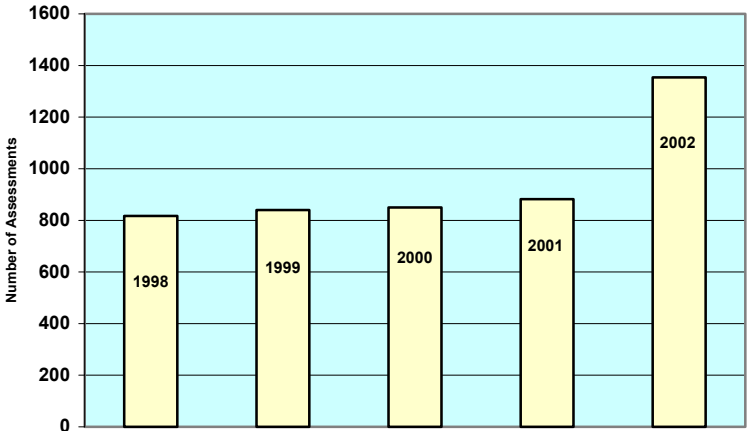


Chart 3

Culpeper County Sheriff's Office

By Sheriff Lee Hart



When we talk about growth in Culpeper County, we cannot forget how it affects law enforcement. In 2001, the Culpeper Sheriff's Office responded to 13,090 calls for service. In 2002, the number of calls increased to 17,096. Additionally, civil papers increased from 15,838 papers served in 2001 to 18,947 papers served in 2002. As the number of residences and businesses increases in Culpeper County, law enforcement must be responsive to the growing number of citizens and their needs. This includes finding additional resources to put more deputies on patrol, in the courts, and in our schools. The growth issue has also aggravated overcrowding in the jail.

One way to effectively deal with growth is to utilize grant resources. Since January of 2000, the Sheriff's Office has been successful in obtaining over \$500,000 in grant funding. These grants have been used to provide such things as personnel, equipment, and funding for overtime to supplement our budget.

Another way to deal with growth is through citizen involvement. My administration is based strongly on the concept of community policing. We, as law enforcement officers, cannot do our job alone. We need help from the citizens of Culpeper. Deputies in the Crime Prevention Division educate our citizens through programs such as Neighborhood Watch, Triad, and DARE on how crime can be reduced and prevented. I view this as a wise investment of personnel time. I would much rather send our deputies out to educate the public on how to protect themselves than have to spend personnel time and monetary resources after a crime has been committed. The citizens become our eyes and ears, for we cannot be everywhere.

Other forms of citizen involvement include an open door policy and my quarterly reports that are held throughout different parts of the county. I have found this to be a way of keeping the citizens informed on activities of the Sheriff's Office, as well as a means of being accessible to their needs.

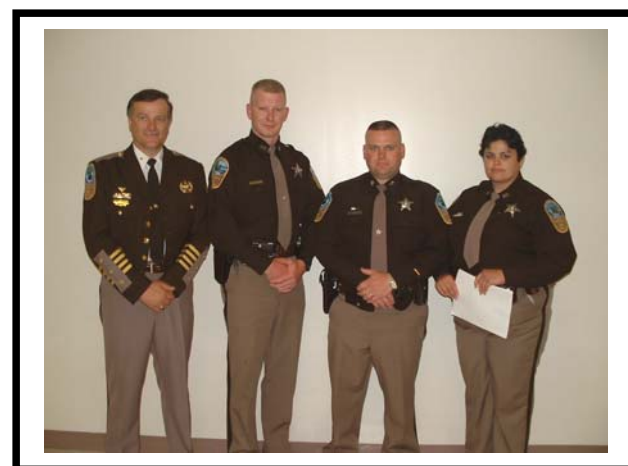
Since September 11th 2001, the anxiety of terrorist threats that we have had to face, such as the anthrax and sniper scares, have affected us all. Throughout these ordeals the Sheriff's Office had to increase visibility, while we continued to perform our regular daily operations. We counteracted these threats by being vigilant and by the greater than ever presence of the deputy and the Sheriff's Office vehicles throughout the County.

With the continued support of the Board of Supervisors, I am very confident that we are preparing effectively to face the growth issues before us. Culpeper County is a great community, and I take immense pride that our crime solvability rate for 2002 was approximately 65%. We will continue to focus on being proactive in ensuring our citizens' safety.

Culpeper County Sheriff's Office (continued)

Congratulations Law Enforcement Basic #68

On May 8, 2003, the 70th Basic Law Enforcement class graduated from the Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy. Three members of the Culpeper County Sheriff's Office were among the graduates. Pictured with Sheriff Hart from left to right, Deputy Justin Dole, Deputy Paul R. Graham, and Deputy Maria Amilpa.



Salem Ruritan Club Public Safety Award

John Marshall, Virginia Director of Public Safety, was guest speaker at the 2003 Salem Ruritan Club Public Safety Ceremony. Sheriff Hart was one of the award recipients for his dedication and commitment to serving the citizens of Culpeper County.

Virginia Safety Patrol

Vincent Verardo of Culpeper was awarded for his lifesaving efforts as a Safety Patrol for Epiphany Catholic School. Vincent, pictured here with Sheriff Hart and Corporal Scott, was nominated by the Culpeper County Sheriff's Office for his heroic lifesaving efforts after a child ran into the flow of traffic and Vincent pulled the child back to safety. The awards ceremony took place in Reston, Virginia.



Sheriff's Quarterly Report

The next Sheriff's Quarterly Report will take place on August 13, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. at the Historic Episcopal Church at Little Fork in Rixeyville. Please check the local newspapers or visit our website at www.culpepersheriffsoffice.org for details as the event draws closer.



CULPEPER MINUTES

A Publication of
The Culpeper County
Board of Supervisors



The Administration Building
302 North Main Street
Culpeper, VA 22701

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ISSUE THIRTEEN

CULPEPER MINUTES

FALL 2003

Come to the Fall Farm Tour October 4th & 5th !

By: Carl C. Stafford
Extension Agent

Come see agriculture in action during the weekend of October 4 and 5, 2003 when Culpeper County is open to visitors who can see up to 18 different agricultural operations. This is our 6th annual fall farm tour weekend, when cooperating farm sites are open to the public.

You can expect to see everything from the traditional farms that have beef and dairy cattle, grain crops and hay; to the specialty producers of cut flowers, Christmas trees, nursery stock and herbs that represent part of our greens industry, a leading economic sector in local agriculture. Plan to visit the bison and horse farms, wineries, a commercial feed mill, an agricultural history site or one of our newest additions, a dog training facility.

Your Agriculture I.Q. will certainly be enhanced after

a weekend in Culpeper County visiting farms that are open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., on October 4 and 5, 2003.

A special treat this year includes the participation by the Museum of Culpeper History which now has a historic site near Stevensburg along Mountain Run, donated to them recently by the Lenn Brothers. The Museum plans to have agricultural history activities and demonstrations ongoing as part of the farm tour educational experience. You can expect to see or participate in milking a cow, spinning wool, shucking or shelling corn, harvesting honey from a beehive or plowing with a mule. When tired of chores, take a wagon ride along Mountain Run or listen to stories told by Culpeper's legendary farmers.

Tour brochures will be available by the end of August.

For more information, contact Missy Dinkins
Culpeper County Economic Development Office
mdinkens@culpepercounty.gov or phone 540-727-3410

Telephone Number for Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) 540-829-7500
To report Road Hazards or Snow-Flood Conditions: 800-367-7623 Toll Free
The Great State Trash-Off will be held Saturday, September 13th! Call for details!!